

REMARKS

The Office Action dated July 14, 2003, indicated as being "FINAL" has been reviewed in detail and the application has been amended in the sincere effort to place the same in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the claims of the application and allowance in their amended form are requested based on the following remarks.

Applicants retain the right to pursue broader claims under 35 U.S.C. §120.

Applicants have provided a unique solution with respect to problems regarding ZINC-CONTAINING OPTICAL GLASS MATERIALS. Applicants' solution is now claimed in a manner that satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §103.

New Issues:

It is submitted that no new issues have been raised by this amendment since the amendments to the claims have correspondence to limitations in the claims presently on file. Specifically, new Claims 65-77 only contain limitations already set forth in Claims 50-53 and

59-64 presently on file. Claims 50-53 and 59-64 have been canceled herein, without prejudice.

Allowable Subject Matter:

On page 5 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner indicated that Claims 34 and 46-49 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim. In addition, the Examiner indicated in the telephone conversation of January 16, 2004 that Claims 55-58, although not stated in the Office Action, would also be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim. Accordingly, each of Claims 34, 46-49, and 55-58 have been rewritten in independent form for a total of nine independent claims. These claims are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance.

New Claims 65, 66, 67, and 68 are also believed to be in condition for allowance based on their dependence from Claims 46, 47, 48, and 49, respectively.

New Claims 69-71 are also believed to be allowable based on their dependence from Claim 55. New Claims 72-73 are also believed to be allowable based on their dependence from Claim 56. New

Claims 74-75 are also believed to be allowable based on their dependence from Claim 57. New Claims 76-77 are also believed to be allowable based on their dependence from Claim 58.

Rejection of Claims 45, 50-54, and 59-63 Under 35 U.S.C. §103 (Hares et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,184,166):

Hares, as understood, shows a lead-free glass that has a chemical composition in percent by weight in the ranges set forth in the abstract. The Examiner stated that Hares teaches "a glass composition having overlapping ranges of components with instant claims 45, 51-54, and 60-63." However, Claims 45, 50-54, and 59-63 have been canceled herein, without prejudice, thereby rendering the present rejection against these claims moot.

In view of the above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection with respect to the Hares reference is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claim 33 Under 35 U.S.C. §103 (Tachibana et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,472,030):

Tachibana, as understood, shows a cesium-containing optical

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glass. The Examiner stated that Tachibana teaches "an optical glass composition having overlapping ranges of components with instant claim 33." However, Claim 33 has been canceled herein, without prejudice, thereby rendering the present rejection against this claim moot.

In view of the above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection with respect to the Tachibana reference is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 54, 59, 61-64 Under 35 U.S.C. §103 (Speit, U.S. Patent No. 4,820,326):

Speit, as understood, shows an ultraviolet optical filter glass made from a colored alkali silicate glass. The Examiner stated that Speit teaches "an optical filter glass composition having overlapping ranges of components with instant claims 54 and 61-63." However, Claims 54, 59, and 61-64 have been canceled herein, without prejudice, thereby rendering the present rejection against these claims moot.

In view of the above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the

rejection with respect to the Speit reference is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections:

Claims 51, 52, and 60-62 were objected to as utilizing the phrase "further consists of," which, according to the Examiner, gives the appearance that additional components are being added in those claims. However, as stated by the Examiner, no new components have been added in these claims, but rather previous component amount ranges have been narrowed. The Examiner requested that the phrase "further consists of" be deleted from each of these claims, and that the language be amended as set forth on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action to clarify the claims.

Claims 51, 52, and 60-62 have been canceled herein, without prejudice. However, some of the limitations of these claims have been included in new Claims 65-77. The language of new Claims 65-77 has been drafted in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion in order to overcome the objection to the claims. In view of the above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the present objection is respectfully requested.

Recordation of the Substance of the Telephonic Interview:

In order to render this Amendment complete, the following is a recordation of the substance of the telephonic interview conducted with the Examiner on January 16, 2004:

- 1) No exhibits were shown, nor were any demonstrations conducted.
- 2) Primarily, the status of Claims 55-58 was discussed.
- 3) Generally no other pertinent matters were discussed.
- 4) The general outcome of the interview was a statement from the Examiner that Claims 55-58 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Art Made of Record:

The prior art made of record and not applied has been carefully reviewed, and it is submitted that it does not, either taken singly or in any reasonable combination with the other prior art of record, defeat the patentability of the present invention or render the present invention obvious. Further, Applicants are in agreement with the

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Examiner that the prior art made of record and not applied does not appear to be material to the patentability of the claims currently pending in this application.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and early action towards that end is respectfully requested.

Summary and Conclusion:

It is submitted that Applicants have provided a new and unique ZINC-CONTAINING OPTICAL GLASS MATERIALS. It is submitted that the claims are fully distinguishable from the prior art. Therefore, it is requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued at an early date.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Nils H. Ljungman".

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